



Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

Immaculate Conception Hastings, St Peter's
Shoreham and St Brendan's Church Somerville

The Epiphany of the Lord -Year A, 4 January 2026

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Shymon
Thekkekalathungal IVDei

Parish Secretary:
Hijacinta Svabelj

Pastoral Worker:
Deirdre Fennessy

**Office Hours: 9.30am-
3.00pm (Tuesday-Friday)**

Phone - 5979 4374

PARISH CENTRE:

71 Marine Parade Hastings

POSTAL ADDRESS:

PO Box 76 Hastings 3915

Email:

westernport@cam.org.au

Parish Web Site:

[https://
www.melbcatholic.org/s/
westernport](https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/westernport)

**BAPTISM ENQUIRIES &
COMMUNION TO THE SICK:**
Parish Centre 5979 4374

PARISH SCHOOLS:

CRIB POINT St Joseph's
Primary School 5983 9374

HASTINGS St Mary's Pri-
mary School 5979 1959

SOMERVILLE St Brendan's
Primary School 5977 7277

MORNINGTON Padua
College Vice Principal
Matthew Williams 5976 0100

VINNIES OP SHOP 83 High
St Hastings 5979 4373

**St Vincent de Paul Help
Assistance Call Centre**
(9am-noon M-F) 5976 4974

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgment to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgment.
(R.)

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. (R.)

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

A reading from the letter to St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord. **Alleluia!**

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate

Stars and Seekers after Truth

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq.

They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem.

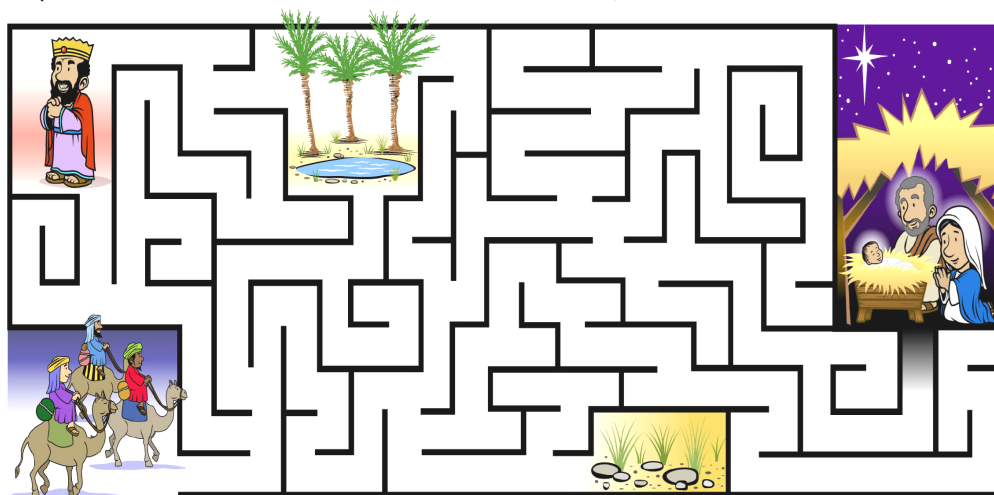
They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child. Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him.

Help the wise men find their way to Bethlehem - watch out for King Herod!

CHILDREN'S WORKSHEET



LITURGIES THIS WEEK, 5th January –11th January**MONDAY** No Mass**TUESDAY 9.30am** Mass at Somerville**WEDNESDAY—No Mass at Shoreham****THURSDAY—No Mass at Hastings****FRIDAY— 9.30am** Mass at Hastings**SATURDAY****6.00pm** Mass at St Brendan's Church, Somerville**SUNDAY****8.00am** Mass at St Peter's Church, Shoreham**10.00am** Mass at St Peter's Church, Shoreham**10.00am** Mass at Immaculate Conception Church,
Hastings**PRAYERS AND PETITIONS.**

Please pray for those who are sick, especially Ian Marshall, Bob Fels, Pat Pope, David Wirth, Brian Stahl, Kees Meyer, Michael Smith, Danny McGeough, Ray Weir, Rebecca, Marie Mereszko, Halima, Sala, Agnes, Malia, Maureen Bleighly, Sandra, Marissa, Amber, Peter Rogan, Bernadette Sexton, Peter Munyan, Mary Sloan, Paula Murphy, Frank Tagliabue, Michael Pound, Janice Danaher, Vicky Mathis, Edna Walsh, Jane Maria, Kathy Burke, Frank Howard, Mike Mason, Elaine Duyvestyn, James Smythe, Lucy Triffett, Helena Jaskolski, Oscar Dixon-Rotherham, Margaret Sherlock, and all those who need our prayers. May they receive the Lord's comfort and strength.

Please pray for those who have died recently, especially Russell Petrie, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Eshappan Chacko, Colleen Wilson and Felicia Wilson. May they rest in peace.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CUPBOARD

The demand for non-perishable food is significant and the Conference is currently purchasing items to give to those in need in our Community. We are in desperate need of the following food items. Long Life Milk, Pasta and Pasta sauces, tins of Soup, Baked Beans, Spaghetti, Tuna, diced Tomatoes, tins of Vegetables and tinned Fruit . Spreads such as Peanut Butter, Jam, Vegemite, Sweet and Dry biscuits and Two-minute noodles and Cup of soups . Any type of toiletries would be most welcome Thank you for your ongoing support!

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK: 10th & 11th January 2026

MINISTRY	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Shoreham</i>	<i>Hastings</i>		
Lector	Sandy Adolphus	8.00am Catherine Clancy, 10.00am Tim Dyer	Lioba Robinson	Mass Wel- comer Has- tings	Maggie Parsons
Eucharistic Ministers	Mary Marshall	8.00am Genevieve Meyer 10.00am Anne Maree Dyer	Barbara Farley Deirdre Fennessy	Counters This Week	Heimann Sissing, Brian McAnallen
Commenta- tor	Sandy Adolphus	8.00am A.-M. Wilkinson 10.00am Ann Lorkin	Val Coventry	Counters Next Week	Kees & Genevieve Meyer
Altar Linen		JAN. - Anne Maree Dyer		Sacristan	Paula Stokes
Mass Prep	Val Baxter	JAN. - Catherine Russ		Audio/Visual	Princes Jellyanne Manocan
Flowers	Paula Street	Somerville Mainte- nance—		Communion to the Sick This Week	N/A
		Sharon Judd			

A THANK YOU NOTE

I express my gratitude to our committed parish staff, volunteers, sacristans, ministers, readers, and parishioners who collaborated in organizing the beautiful celebrations for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day masses.

Your hard work has made these events truly remarkable. I extend special thanks to everyone for their support, Christmas greetings, and considerate gifts. Your contributions have significantly enhanced the joy of this season. Please note that I am away in January and **Fr Michael Miles** and **Fr Geoff Baron** will be celebrating Masses in my absence.

Blessings to you all. *Fr. Shymon.*

WEEKDAY MASSES

Dear Parishioners and visitors, please note that during Fr Shymon's absence there will be 2 weekday Masses:

**Mass at Somerville each Tuesday
and Mass at Hastings each Friday.**

BLESSING FOR A NEW YEAR

Remember us, O God;

from age to age be our comforter.

You have given us the wonder of time,
blessings in days and nights, seasons and years.

Bless your children at the turning of the year
and fill the months ahead with the bright hope
that is ours in the coming of Christ.

You are our God, living and reigning,
forever and ever. Amen.

Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers



10 INSPIRING STORIES THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED IN 2025

This has certainly been a year to remember, with an overwhelming number of big news stories breaking in 2025, both in Australia and on the world stage.

It's been a particularly significant year for Catholic news also, as we have celebrated the Jubilee Year of Hope, both in our own Archdiocese and in Rome, seen two new bishops installed for Melbourne, farewelled **Pope Francis** and welcomed **Pope Leo XIV**, and hosted more than 6,000 young Catholics in Melbourne for the recent Australian Catholic Youth Festival, not to mention all the other events, that form part of the Church's calendar.

As we try to keep up with all this big news, though, it's easy to miss some of the smaller, quieter but no less significant stories—stories that show God powerfully at work in ordinary lives and communities, bringing transformation and hope. Continue reading: [10 inspiring stories that you might have missed... | Melbourne Catholic](#)

PASTORAL LETTER ON CONCLUSION OF THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

As we conclude the Jubilee Year of Hope, **Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli** has written a Pastoral Letter about Jubilee Year journey, concluding: "*I encourage you to hold fast to the practices that have sustained you during this year: prayer that opens the heart, the sacraments that nourish and heal, and a generosity of spirit that reflects the mercy of God.*" You can find copies of this letter in the foyers of our three churches.

2026 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS

You can still find 2026 Columban Art Calendars for \$10 each in the foyer of our churches.



Total giving from the week 22th Dec.—28th Dec. 2025

1st Collection – Presbytery (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques) - \$660.10
2nd Collection – Church (Including Direct Debits, Cards and cheques) \$851.60
Tap Machine Donations \$78.62
Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Collections—\$2599.10

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Western Port Parish is committed to making our Church a safe place for children and young people and protect them from harm.